

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 69**

**Program No. Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Corporate Plan 2012-15**

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

NBN Co claims to be operating under the Corporate Plan 2012-15 that was published in August 2012.

- a. Does the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act (s42) require that the directors must prepare a corporate plan that covers a period of three years at least once a year and give it to the responsible Minister?
- b. When did NBN Co last give a Corporate Plan to the responsible Minister within the meaning of the Act?
- c. The Minister has said NBN Co will submit a revised Corporate Plan in June. However at the half year results announcement and at Estimates NBN Co indicated the Government would be provided a 2014-15 "budget" before June and a Corporate Plan later in the year. When will NBN Co be submitting a new Corporate Plan?
- d. Will that Corporate Plan cover at least a three year period as required by the CAC Act?
- e. Is NBN Co as a GBE complying with its obligations under the CAC Act? If not, has that been advised to the Directors of NBN Co?
- f. Section 82 of the National Broadband Network Companies Act also places an obligation on NBN to provide a Corporate Plan annually that covers a period of at least three years. Is NBN Co complying with this obligation?

**Answer:**

- a. Yes the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (CAC) Act 1997 (s42)* indicates that directors of a wholly owned Commonwealth company that is a Government Business Enterprise, must prepare a corporate plan at least once a year covering a period of at least three years and give it to the responsible Minister.
- b. On 28 June 2013 NBN Co Limited (NBN Co) submitted a draft 2013-16 Corporate Plan to Shareholder Ministers as required under the CAC Act.
- c. The NBN Co draft 2014-17 Corporate Plan will be prepared on the basis of the Government's consideration of the Strategic Review and provision of an updated Statement of Expectations. It is expected to be submitted in mid-2014
- d. Yes 2014-17.
- e. Yes.
- f. NBN Co is complying with its obligation to provide a Corporate Plan annually, covering a period of at least three years, as per section 82 of the *National Broadband Network Companies Act 2011*.